

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action dated August 17, 2006.

In the Office Action the Examiner has rejected claims 1 and 3-13 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. In response, Applicant has amended claim 1, which is directed to the automotive gauge mounting assembly, including a gauge mounting bracket, in combination with the gauge.

The Examiner has also rejected claims 1, 3, and 6-13 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) based upon U.S. Patent No. 3,365,761 to Kalvig.

Claims 1, 3, 5-7 and 10-13 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) based upon U.S. Patent No. 5,702,076 to Humber.

Claim 4 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 based upon Kalvig in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,603,551 to Peterson.

Reliance upon U.S. Patent No. 4,507,706 to Trexler, Jr. has been withdrawn by the Examiner.

The Kalvig disclosure is understood to be directed to a shaft-gripping device for holding broom handles, rods, shanks or other similar stem-like elements. *See col. 2, lines 51-52.* Kalvig discloses upper and lower plates that may be horizontally oriented and which are provided with circular openings. *See col. 2, lines 23-29.* Clamped between the two plate is a flexible layer of plastic or rubber material. *See col. 2, lines 32-34.* The hole in the flexible layer is centered in the circular openings of the plate and is smaller than the circular openings. *See col. 2, lines 34-35.* Radial slits extend from the hole in the flexible layer to form fingers that are capable of flexing away from the lower plate. *See col. 2, lines 40-49.*

As understood, Humber discloses a pipe insulator designed to mount 3/8, 1/2 or 3/4 inch pipe in a hole formed in a metal wall stud. *See col. 1, lines 56-58.* The pipe insulator comprises a hollow cylindrical body having a radially-extending mounting flange formed on a rear end of the cylindrical body. *See col. 2, lines 37-38.* The outer diameter of the

cylindrical body is sized to fit the hole in the metal wall stud. *See col. 2, lines 55-57.* Mounting fingers hold the mounting flange against the metal stud. *See col. 2, line 66 to col. 3, line 6.* The cylindrical body has an axially extending slot to facilitate insertion into the hole in the metal stud. *See col. 3, lines 12-16.* The pipe insulator includes pipe gripping segments which extend radially inwardly from the cylindrical body. *See col. 2, lines 41-43.* The pipe gripping segments are bendable a sufficient amount to permit passage of the pipe through the cylindrical body while holding the pipe rigidly in position. *See col. 2, lines 51-54.*

As understood, Peterson discloses a toolholder having a rigid support member defining a channel portion having spaced openings. *See col. 1, lines 45-61.* A strip is insertable in the channel portion and has cross slits which align with the openings. *See col. 1, lines 62-66.*

None of the references are believed to disclose or suggest an assembly as set forth in the amended claims. In particular, none of the references are believed to disclose an automotive gauge assembly engageable to an automotive vehicle interior. Even assuming that the references disclose friction fit apertures suitable for retaining cylindrical objects in place, none of the references are believed to disclose or suggest a combination of such friction fit apertures, formed in a bracket engageable to an automotive interior, for retaining one or more automotive gauges therein. Applicant submits that no motivation to modify the prior art to derive Applicant's invention is set forth in the cited references. Nor is any such motivation believed to be properly identified from hindsight conclusion that such a modification would provide a useful way to retain automotive gauges. As such, Applicant

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submits that the subject matter set forth in the claims is patentably distinct over the cited prior art.

Applicant has also added new independent claim 14 and dependent claim 15 to the application. The independent claim specifies the manner of constructing the assembly, in an automotive environment. In particular, the method incorporates advantageous and non-obvious features wherein the gauges are selectable and engageable to the bracket in a simple manner. In accordance with the claimed method, engagement of associated electrical wiring to the gauge occurs before the gauge is installed in the bracket and avoids the need for tedious manual connection of the electrical wiring to the gauges, from a location behind the dashboard.

In view of the forgoing, all claims are believed to be in a condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have any suggestions for expediting allowance of the application she is invited to contact Applicant's representative at the telephone number listed below.

If any additional fee is required, please charge Deposit Account Number 19-4330.

Respectfully submitted,

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